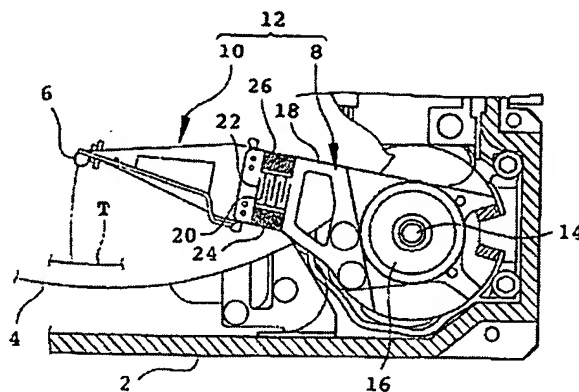


REMARKS

As a preliminary matter, Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in claims 8, 10, 14-16, 18 and 21. In response, Applicants have amended claim 1 to include the features of claim 8, and the dependencies of the claims have been amended accordingly. Applicants respectfully request that the objection of claims 10, 14-16 and 18 be withdrawn.

With respect to the objections to the claims, claim 21 stands objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Accordingly, claim 21 has been amended to depend from claim 17.

Additionally, the Examiner objected to the phrase “directly coupled” because the phrase is not positively recited in the specification. Applicants disagree that it is required for this phrase to be positively recited in the specification since support for the feature is in the drawings (see, arms 10 and 8 are directly coupled together). However, this objection is moot since Applicants have amended all independent claims to recite “a microactuator arm *coupled* to the front end of said main actuator arm...”



Claims 1, 9, 11-13, 17 and 19-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 for failing to distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, the Examiner cites the recitation “a microactuator arm...driven by said piezoelectric element to swing relative to said main actuator arm...” as unclear and contradictory to the drawings and the disclosure. In support, the Examiner argues that “the microactuator arm is indirectly driven by piezoelectric element, and, it is not directly driven by the piezoelectric element as recited in the claims” (Page 3 of Paper No. 35505).

While Applicants agree with the Examiner’s interpretation of the invention, Applicants disagree that the claims of Amendment D required the microactuator arm to be directly driven by the piezoelectric element. The claims had no such limitation on directly driving the microactuator arm (see claim 1, “microactuator arm directly coupled to the front end of said main actuator arm, driven by said piezoelectric element”; claim 9, “microactuator arm driven by said piezoelectric element”; claim 17, “microactuator arm driven by said piezoelectric element”). However, to more clearly describe the present invention, Applicants have amended claims 1, 9 and 17 to recite that the microactuator arm is “*indirectly driven* by said piezoelectric element.” Further, to more clearly describe the present invention, Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 9 and 17 to recite that the microactuator arm swings “relative to *a back end* of said main actuator arm.”

To address the above-noted objections and 35 U.S.C. §112 rejections, claim 1 has been amended to recite “a microactuator arm *coupled* to the front end of said main actuator arm and *indirectly driven* by said piezoelectric element so as to swing relative to

a back end of said main actuator arm.” Further, claims 9 and 17 have been amended to recite “a microactuator arm *indirectly* driven by said piezoelectric element so as to swing relative to *a back end* of said main actuator arm.” Accordingly, Applicant requests that the objections and the 112 rejections be withdrawn.

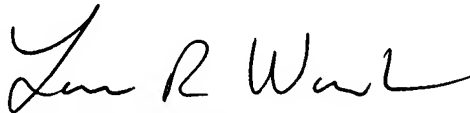
Claims 1-7, 11-13 and 19-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshikawa et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,034,834) in view of Imada et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,268,983). Claim 1 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 8. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 1 and depending claims 2-7, 10, 14-16 and 18 are now allowable.

Further, claims 11-13 and 19-20 depending from independent claims 9 and 17, respectively, stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Since the objections and the §112 rejections to claims 9 and 17 have been addressed above (and there are no other rejections to independent claims 9 and 17) Applicant submits that the §103 rejections of depending claims 11-13 and 19-20 are overcome.

The above amendments to the claims, in view of the foregoing remarks, are believed to place the present application in condition for allowance. Allowance of the application is earnestly solicited. The Examiner should call Applicant's attorney if an interview would expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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May 19, 2006

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